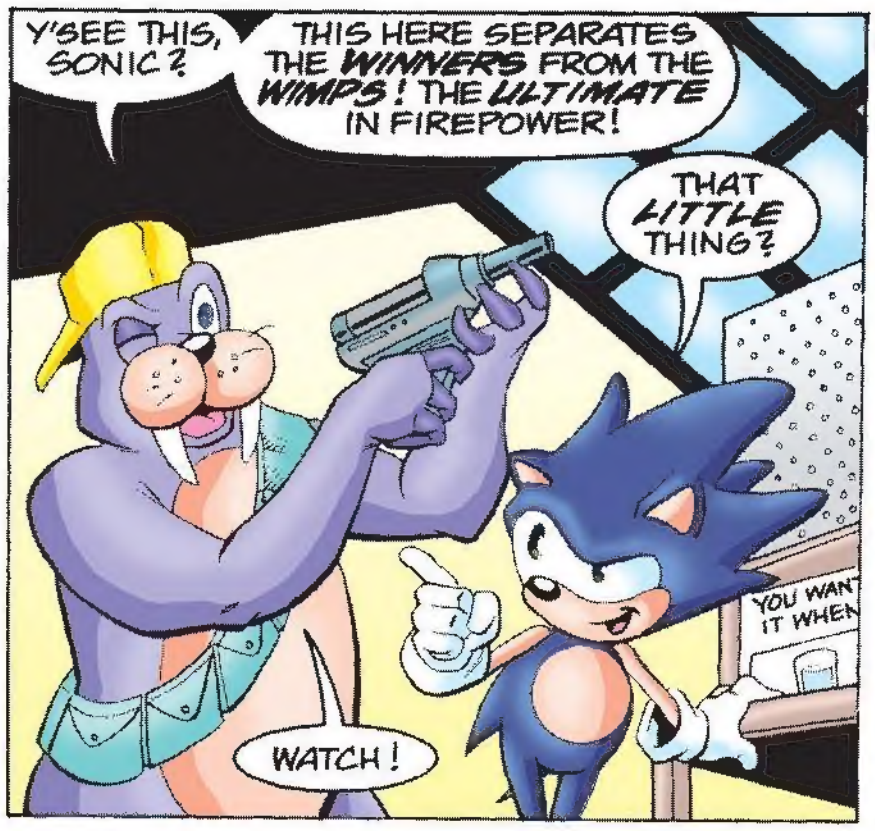
Archie
ADVENTURE SERIES
NO.44
MAR.
$1.50
SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG
TM
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY



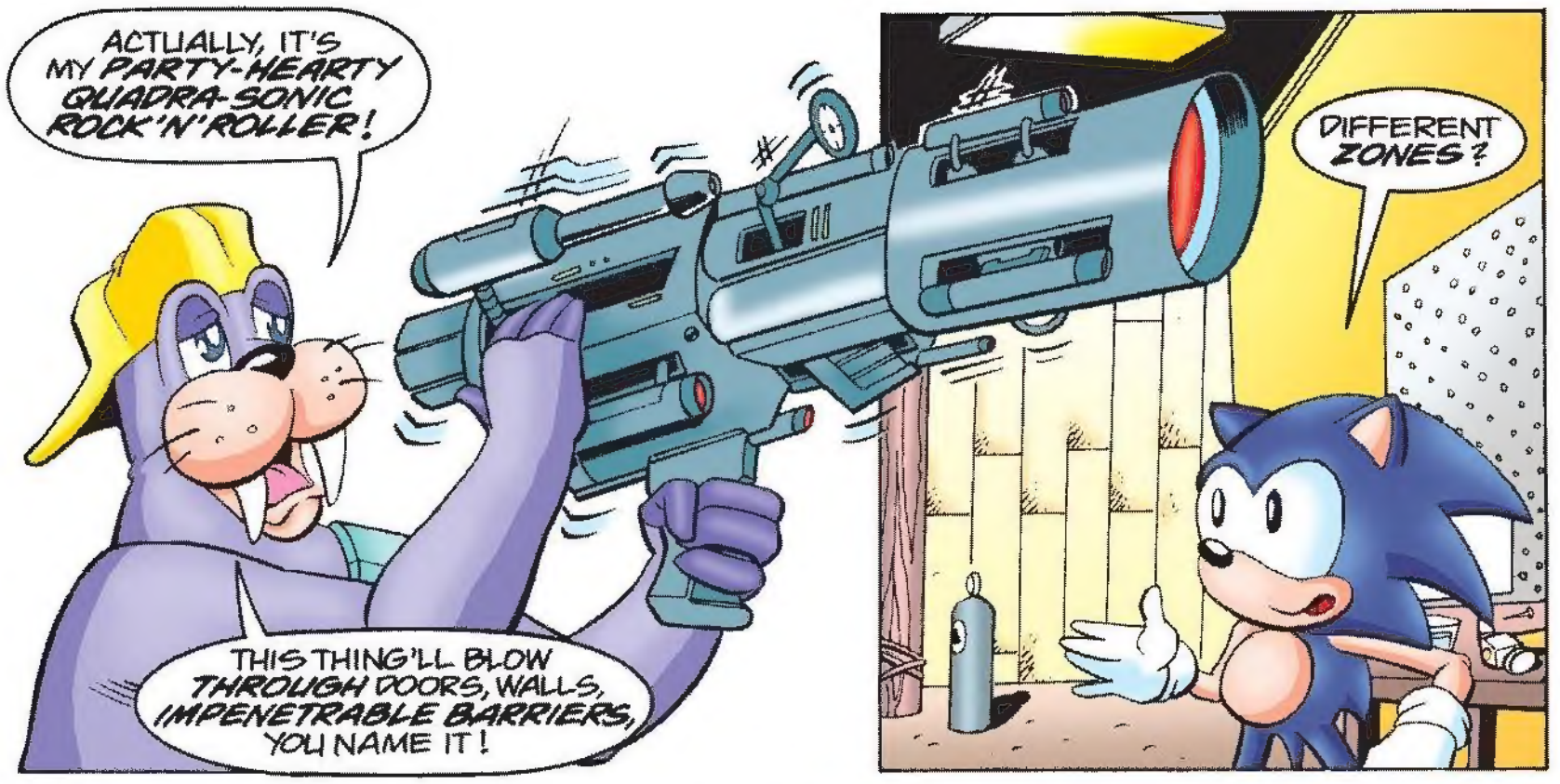
BIG BAD MAMMA TAMMA!

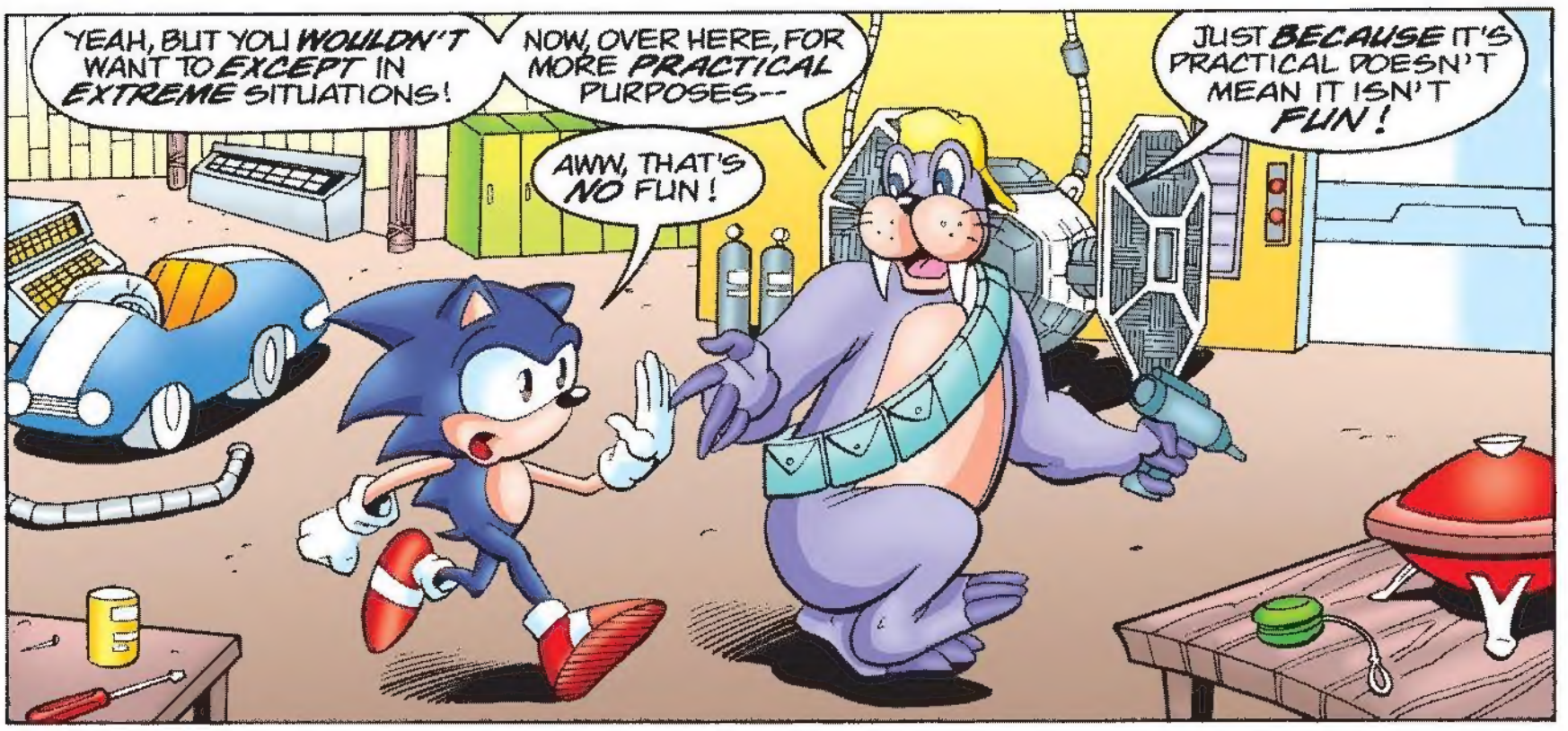
YOU WANT IT WHEN?

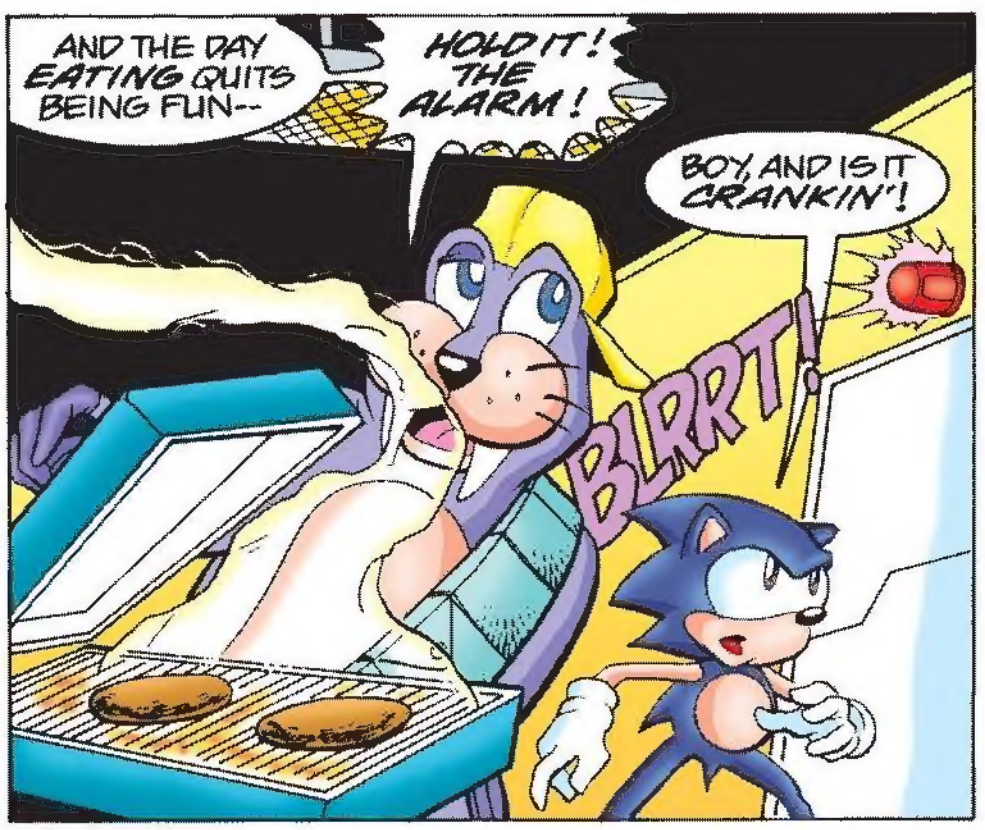
IS THAT SMOKIN' OR WHAT?!

YE-OW, ROTOR! WHAT KIND OF KICK DOES THAT BRUISER HAVE?

THAT'S A PLANET BUSTER IF EVER I SAW ONE!!!


ACTUALLY, IT'S MY PARTY-HEARTY QUADRA-SONIC ROCK'N'ROLLER!
DIFFERENT ZONES?
THIS THING'LL BLOW THROUGH DOORS, WALLS, IMPENETRABLE BARRIERS, YOU NAME IT!


YEAH, BUT YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO EXCEPT IN EXTREME SITUATIONS!
NOW, OVER HERE, FOR MORE PRACTICAL PURPOSES--
AWW, THAT'S NO FUN!
JUST BECAUSE IT'S PRACTICAL DOESN'T MEAN IT ISN'T FUN!


AND THE DAY EATING QUITS BEING FUN--
HOLD IT! THE ALARM!
BOY, AND IS IT CRANKIN'!
BLRRT!

LET'S SEE WHAT THE BOARD SAYS!
MAYBE SOMEBODY TRIPPED OVER A LOST SWATBOT!
SWISHI

BLACK AND BLUE AND RED ALL OVER

PART I

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG™

IT'S *WORSE* THAN THAT

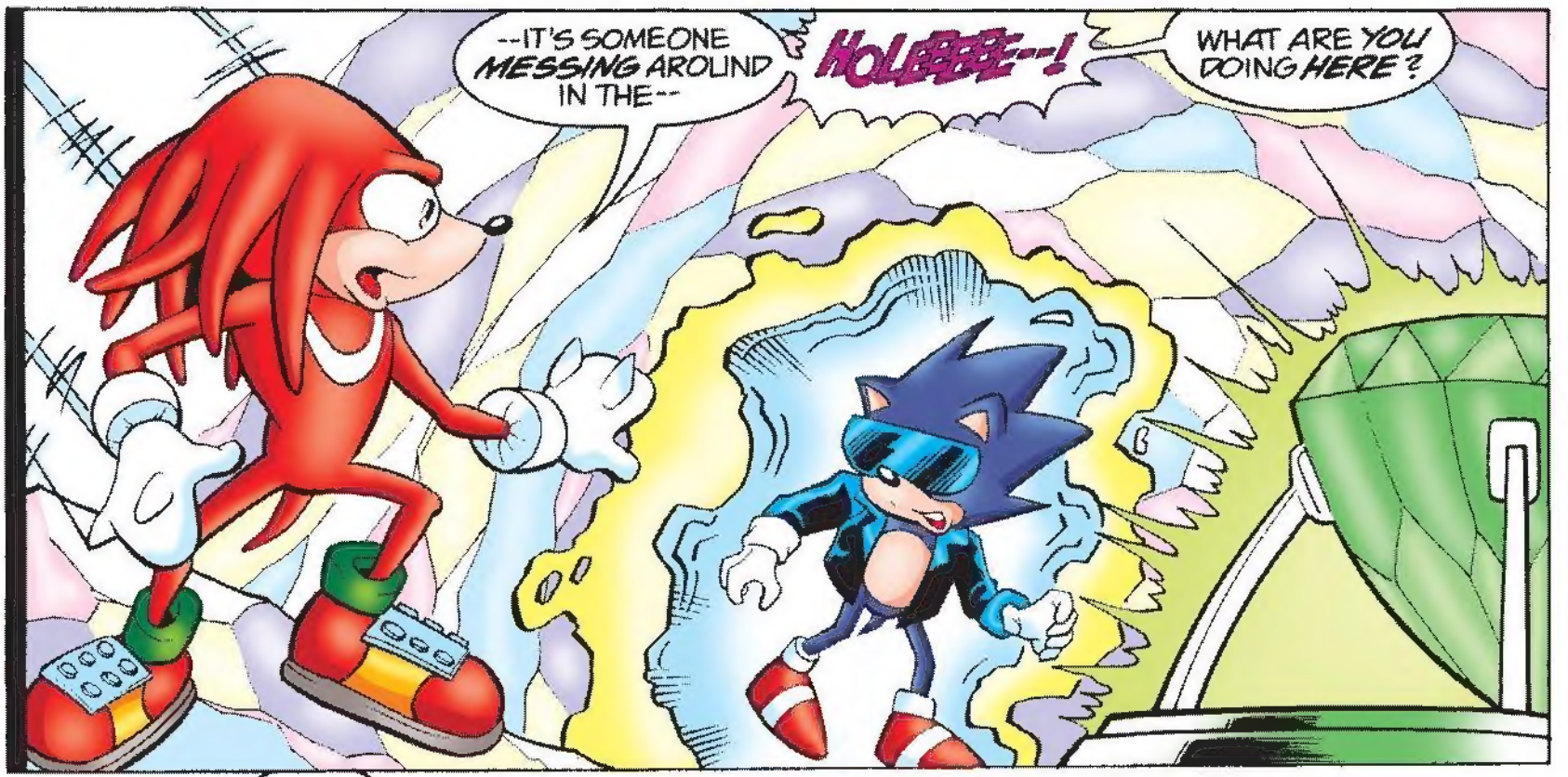
MUCH WORSE!

ACCORDING TO THIS, SOMETHING *CATASTROPHIC* IS HAPPENING ON THE *FLOATING ISLAND*!

Y'ME AN *KNUCKLES* IS IN *TROUBLE*!

KEN PENDERS WRITES IT--*MANNY GALAN* PENCILS IT--*ANDREW PEPOY* INKS IT--*VICKIE WILLIAMS* LETTERS IT--*BARRY GROSSMAN* COLORS IT--*JUSTIN "FREDDY" GABRIE* EDITS IT--*VICTOR GORELICK* MNG. EDITOR--*RICHARD GOLDWATER* CHIEF

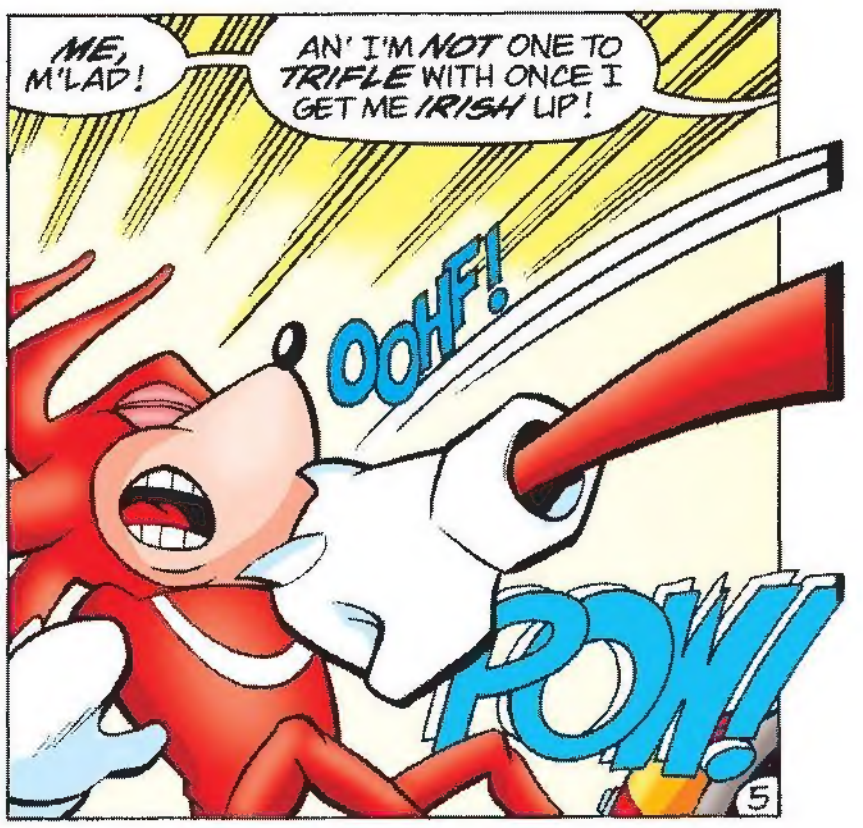
"LET'S SCRAMBLE!"
MON DIEU! EVERYTHING'S AN EMERGENCY AROUND HERE!
HANGER 18
DOESN'T ANYONE KNOW HOW TO RELAX ON ZERE DAY OFF?
WHERE TO ZIS TIME?
"NONE OTHER THAN THE LAND OF ECHIDNAS AND CHAOS EMERALDS--THE FLOATING ISLAND..."
BA-DOOM!
THAT QUAKE CAN ONLY MEAN ONE THING!
SOMETHING OR SOMEONE IS MESSING AROUND IN THE CHAOS CHAMBER!
TO ZOOT CHUTE
AND IF THERE'S ONE THING I DON'T LIKE--
4

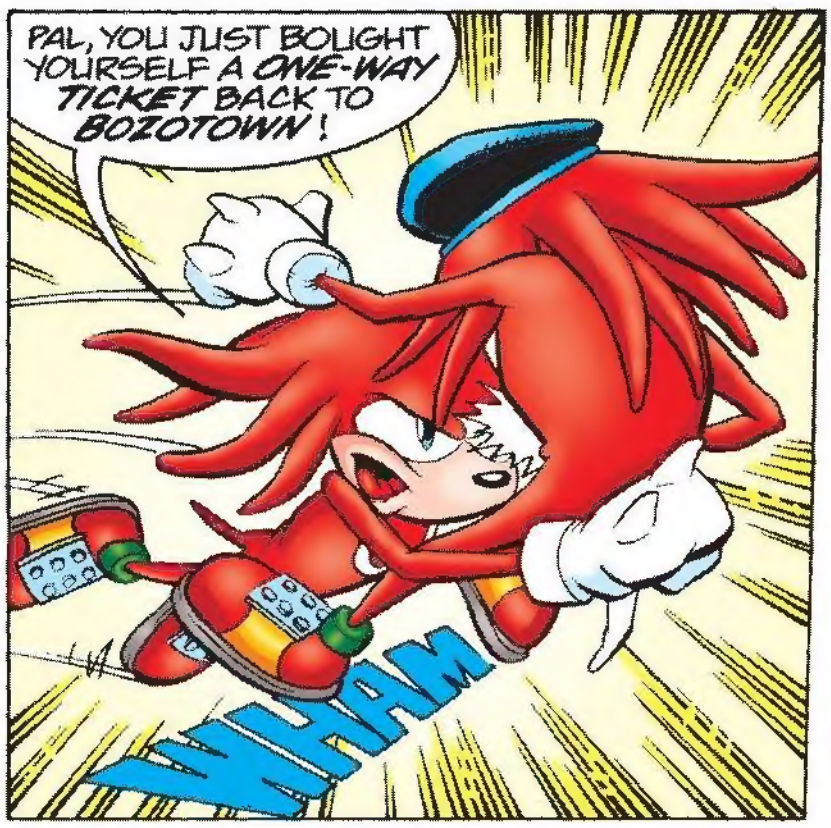

--IT'S SOMEONE MESSING AROUND IN THE--
HOLLEBBBE--!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

DOING HERE?
I'M HERE FOR THE EMERALDS, YA THIEF--

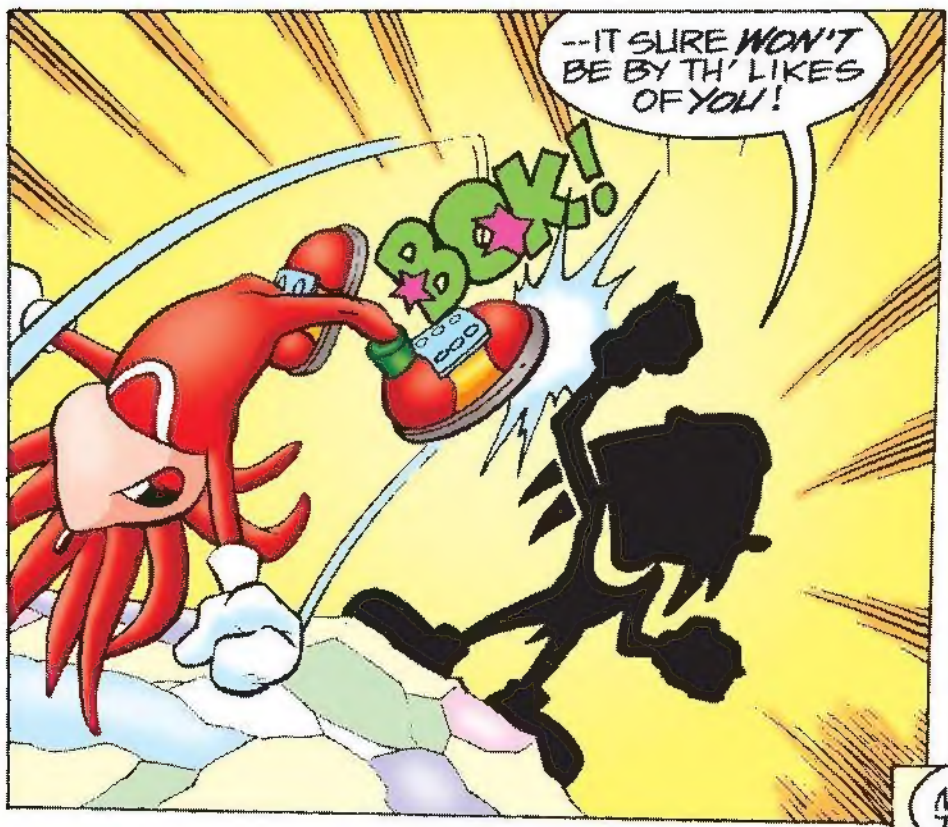
--SO HAND'EM OVER, OR ELSE!
OR ELSE-- WHAT?
DON'T MAKE ME HAFTA GET TOUGH WIT'CHA!
JUST BECAUSE YOUSE GUYS HAVE PROBLEMS DON'T MEAN WE HAFTA SOLVE 'EM FOR YA!

"WE?"
WHO ELSE IS WITH YOU?


ME, M'LAD!
AN' I'M NOT ONE TO TRIFLE WITH ONCE I GET ME IRISH UP!
OOHF!
POW!


PAL, YOU JUST BOUGHT YOURSELF A ONE-WAY TICKET BACK TO BOZOTOWN!
WHAM

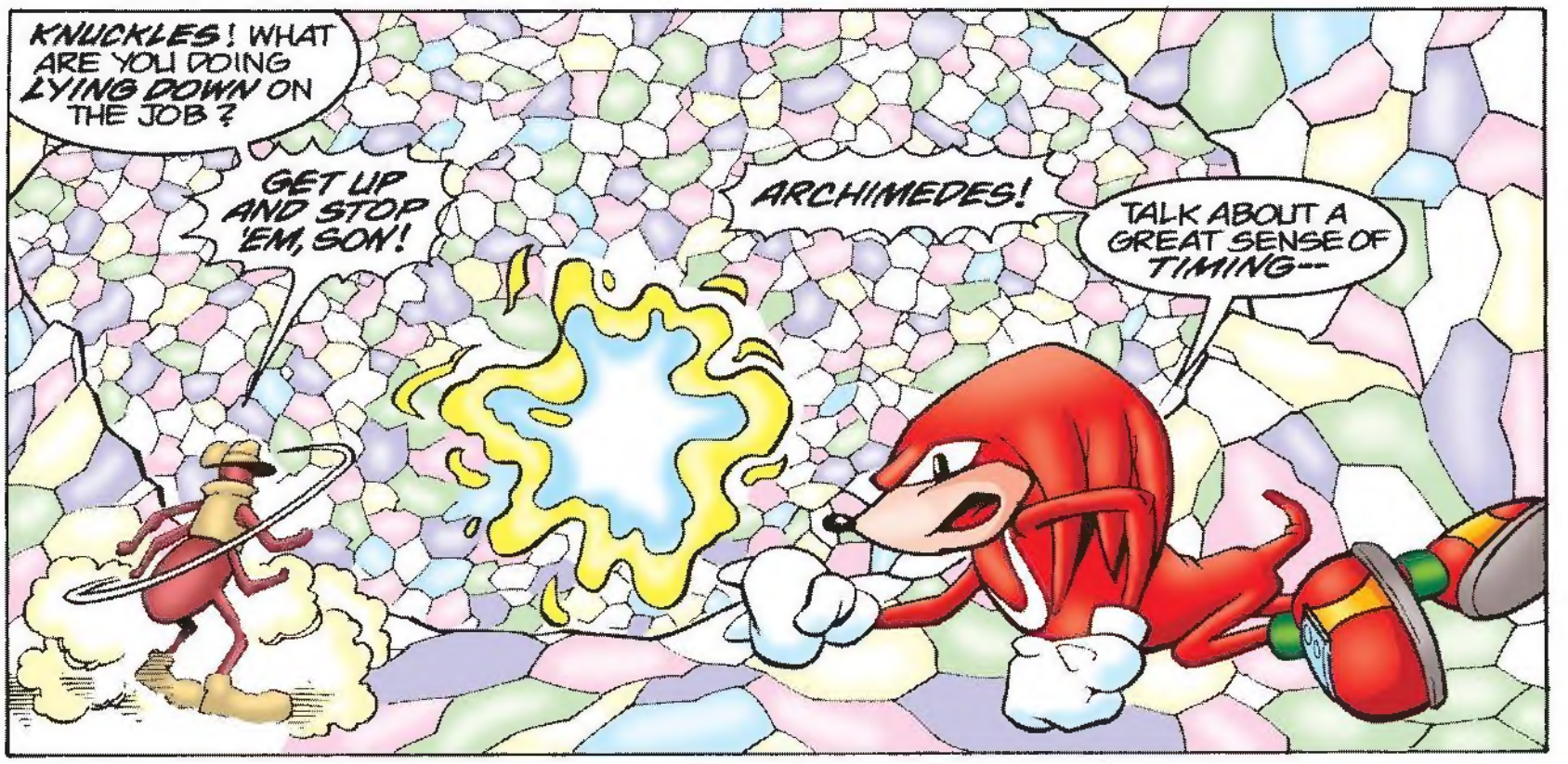
IF ANYONE IS GONNA BE PUNCHING MY TICKET--
THOK!


--IT SURE WON'T BE BY TH' LIKES OF YOU!
BCK!

WOOF!
SLAM!

BEGORRAH! THE PORTAL'S CLOSIN', LADDIE! AND WE DIDN'T GET WHAT WE CAME FOR!
AND YOU WON'T, IF I HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY--

MAYBE NOT THIS TIME!
WE'LL JUST HAFTA TRY SOMETHIN' ELSE!
--ABOUT IT --HOO BOY!

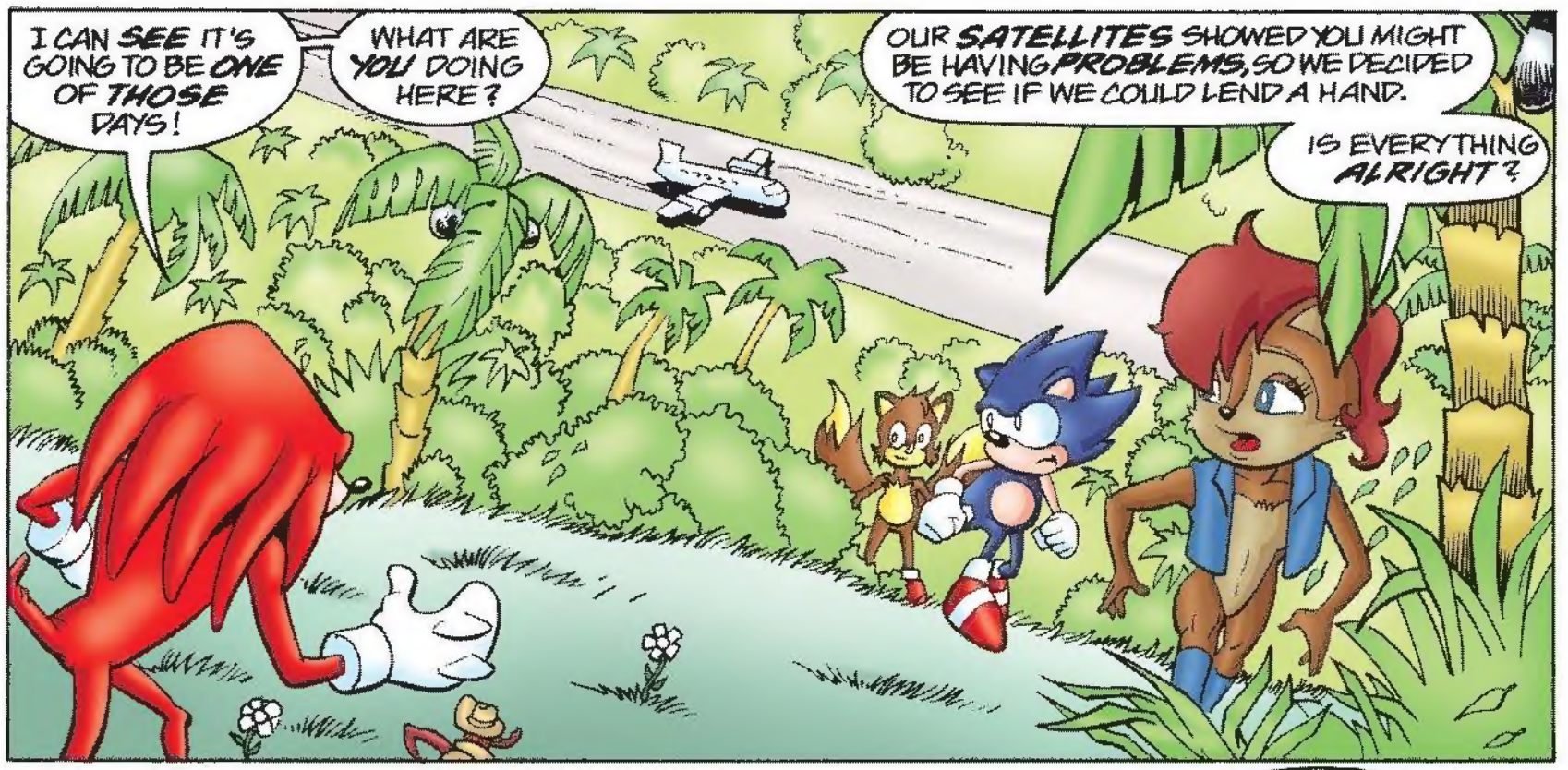

KNUCKLES! WHAT ARE YOU DOING LYING DOWN ON THE JOB?
GET UP AND STOP 'EM, SON!
ARCHIMEDES!
TALK ABOUT A GREAT SENSE OF TIMING--

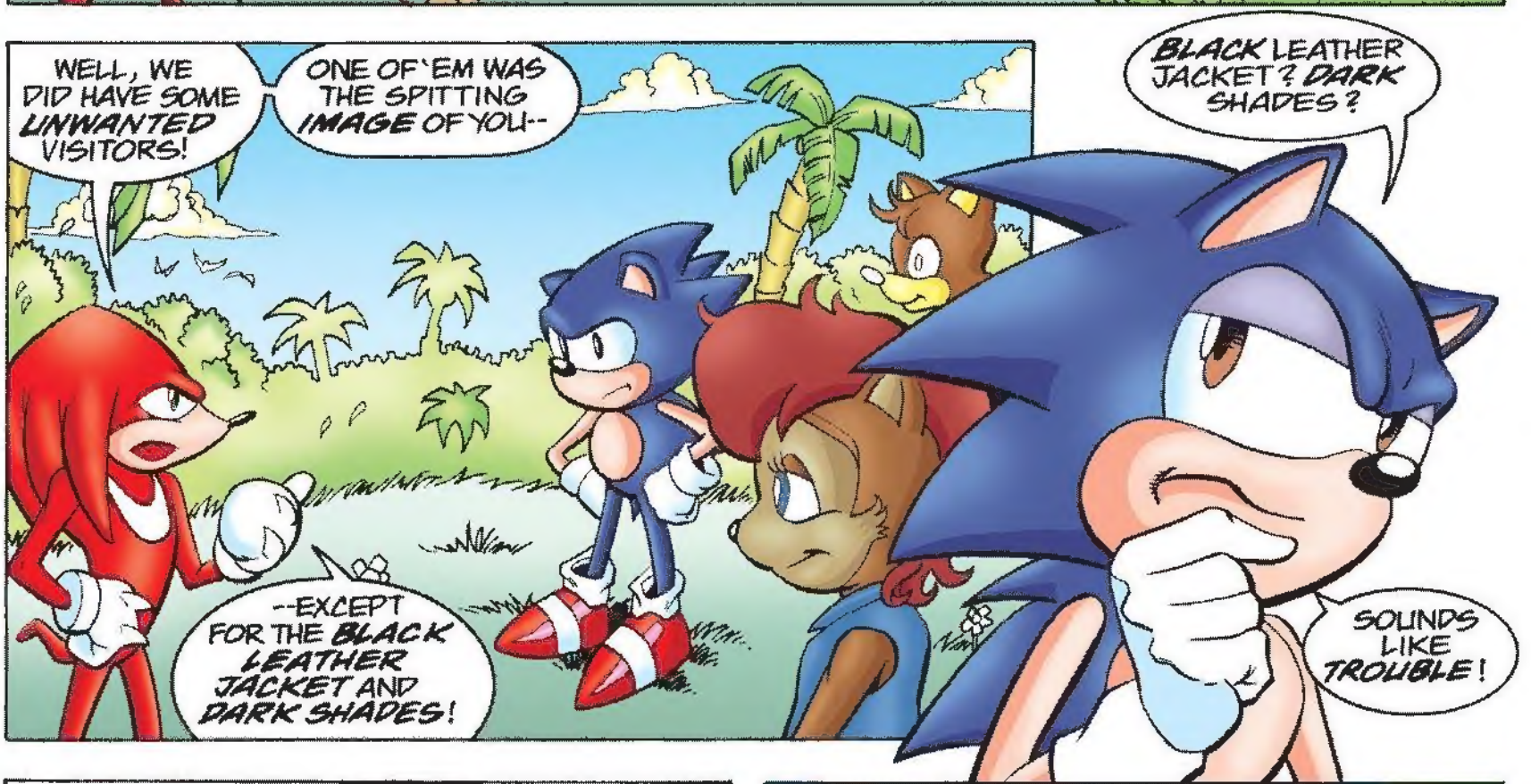
I HURRIED OVER AS SOON AS I HEARD THERE WAS TROUBLE!

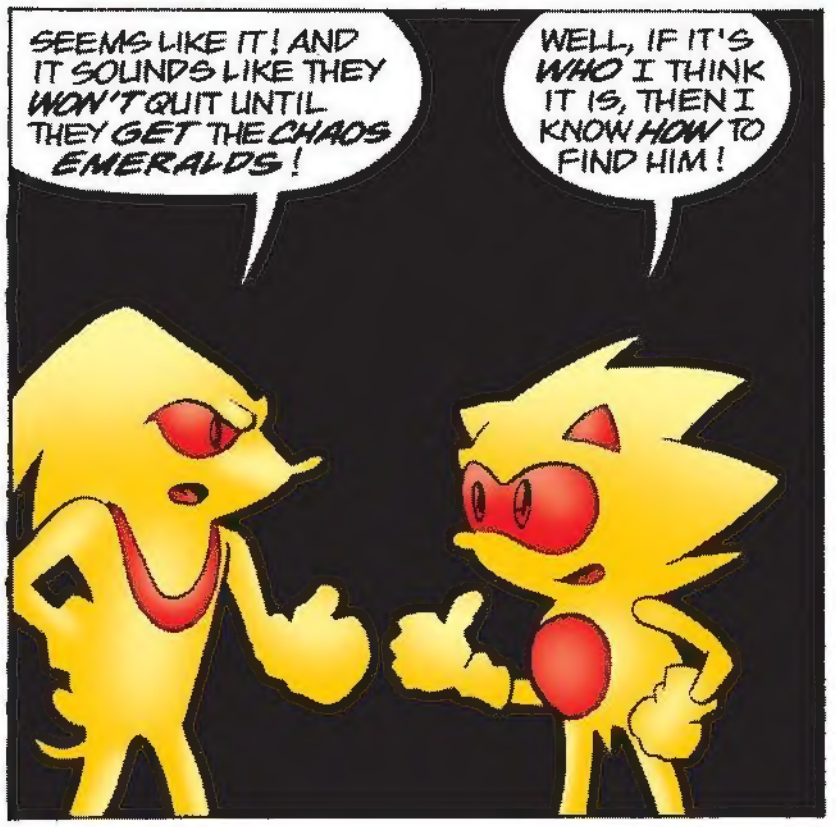
AS SOON AS YOU HEARD? I DIDN'T KNOW NEWS TRAVELED THAT FAST!
THERE ARE MANY THINGS YOU STILL DON'T KNOW ABOUT ME, KNUCKLES!

SO WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
I DON'T THINK WE'VE SEEN THE LAST OF THOSE TWO!
SO IT SEEMS!

ONE OF THEM DID BEAR A STRIKING RESEMBLANCE TO YOU WHILE THE OTHER LOOKED VERY MUCH LIKE YOUR HEDGEHOG FRIEND!
VER-RY FUNNY!
EXCUSE ME. DID SOMEONE SAY, "HEDGEHOG?"


I CAN SEE IT'S GOING TO BE ONE OF THOSE DAYS!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
OUR SATELLITES SHOWED YOU MIGHT BE HAVING PROBLEMS, SO WE DECIDED TO SEE IF WE COULD LEND A HAND.
IS EVERYTHING ALRIGHT?


WELL, WE DID HAVE SOME UNWANTED VISITORS!
ONE OF 'EM WAS THE SPITTING IMAGE OF YOU--
BLACK LEATHER JACKET? DARK SHADES?
--EXCEPT FOR THE BLACK LEATHER JACKET AND DARK SHADES!
SOUNDS LIKE TROUBLE!


SEEMS LIKE IT! AND IT SOUNDS LIKE THEY WON'T QUIT UNTIL THEY GET THE CHAOS EMERALDS!
WELL, IF IT'S WHO I THINK IT IS, THEN I KNOW HOW TO FIND HIM!

SO HOW ABOUT WE SEE IF WE CAN'T TAKE HIM BY SURPRISE?
SOUNDS LIKE A PLAN!
End of Part I

BLACK AND BLUE AND RED ALL OVER

PART II

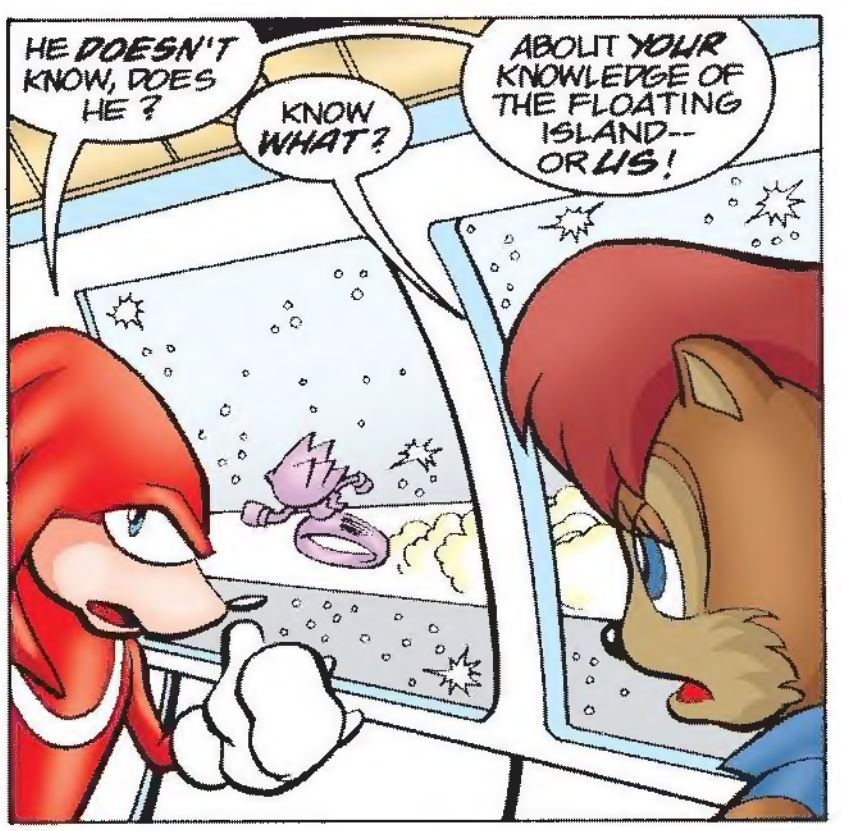
LOOK AT SONIC THE HEDGEHOG™ GO!

HE REALLY LOVES TO CUT LOOSE ON THE COSMIC INTERSTATE!*

MOVE OVER, SLO-MOES!

ONE TRUE-BLUE HEDGEHOG COMIN' THROUGH!

*SEE SONIC #11, 19, 24, AND OTHER ADVENTURES REGARDING THE COSMIC INTERSTATE, A LONG AND WINDING ROAD THAT TAKES YOU ANYWHERE FROM HERE TO THERE! --EDITOR.



NO, BEING THE *DAUGHTER* OF A KING *NEVER* IS! EVEN WHEN ON A *VACATION*--

"--WE WOULD *TRAVEL* TO LOCATIONS *ONLY* MY FATHER KNEW OF!

"WHEN WE *ARRIVED* ON THE *FLOATING ISLAND*, I THOUGHT WE WERE *ALONE* UNTIL I HEARD A SLIGHT *RUSTLING* IN THE NEARBY BUSHES--

R-R-RUSTLE

"--IT WAS ONLY *AFTER* I WANDERED OFF ON MY OWN THAT YOU *REVEALED* YOURSELF TO ME--

WHO ARE YOU?

THAT'S *FUNNY*! I WAS ABOUT TO ASK YOU THE *SAME*, SISTER!

"WE DISCOVERED WE *BOTH* HAD A GREAT DEAL IN *COMMON*--

MY DAD *WANTS* ME TO BE *RULER* OF OUR PEOPLE SOME DAY!

MY DAD *WANTS* ME TO BE *GUARDIAN* OF THE FLOATING ISLAND SOME DAY!

"UNFORTUNATELY, I *COULDN'T* TALK ABOUT YOU TO ANYONE, LEST YOUR FATHER *DISCOVER* YOU *BROKE* THE RULES OF YOUR *APPRENTICESHIP*--

--NOT EVEN WHEN WE HAD TO GO *BACK* TO THE *FLOATING ISLAND* BECAUSE OF *ROBOTNIK* DID I LET ON I KNEW YOU!*

DO YOU *THINK* YOU SHOULD *TELL* SONIC?

*REFER TO THE NOW-CLASSIC SONIC & KNUCKLES #1--EDITOR

I'LL DEAL WITH THAT AT THE PROPER TIME! RIGHT NOW, WE'VE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO CONSIDER!

SUCH AS?

HOW'S YOUR QUEST GOING?*

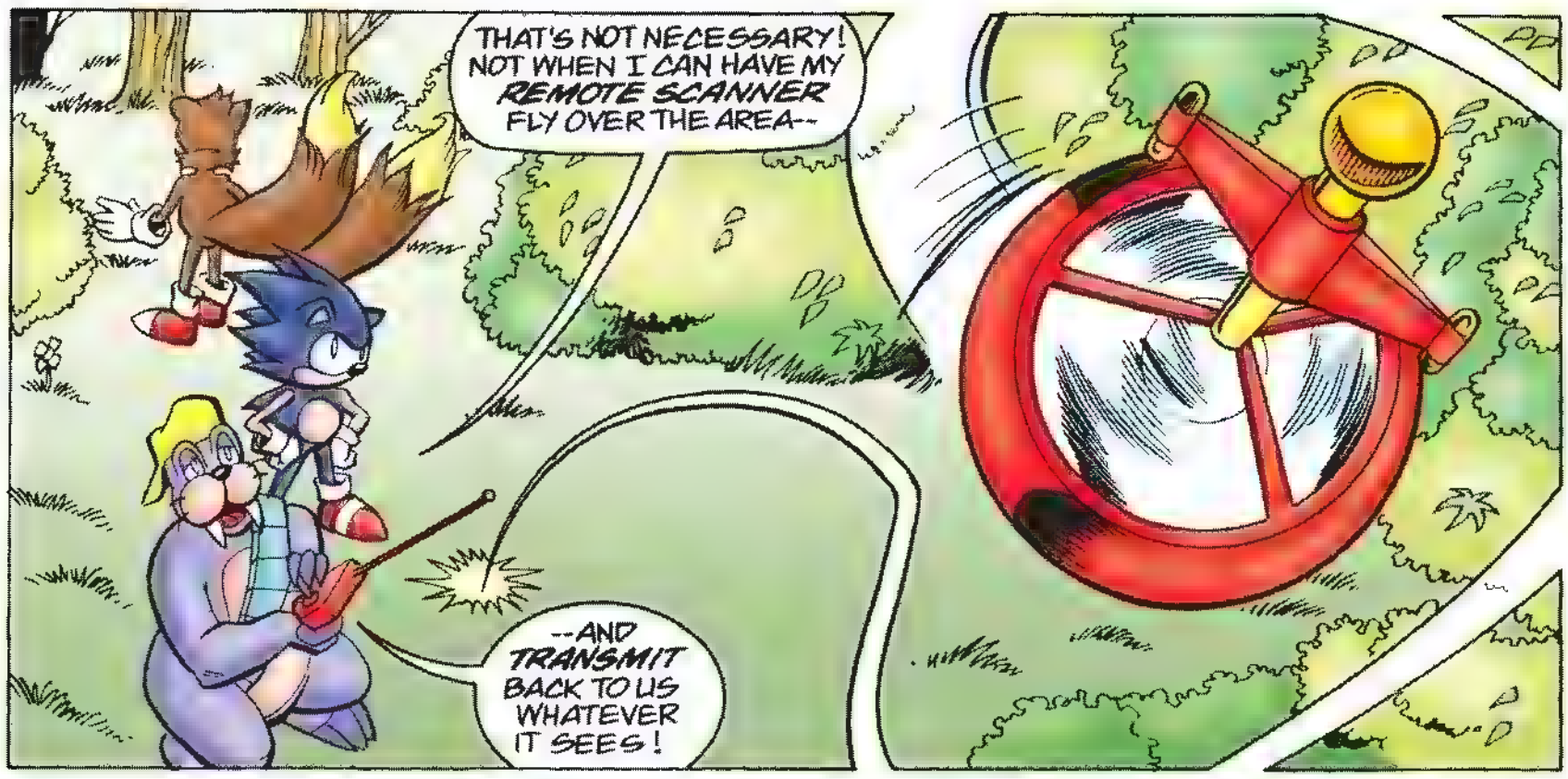
NO LUCK YET ON FINDING THE CROWN, BUT I'M WORKING ON IT.

HOLD ON! WE'RE ABOUT TO HIT ZE OFF-RAMP!!

NO SMOKE PREPARE

STRAP YOURSELVES IN, EVERYONE!!

* SEE "KNUCKLE'S QUEST" IN SONIC LIVE #1.—EDITOR

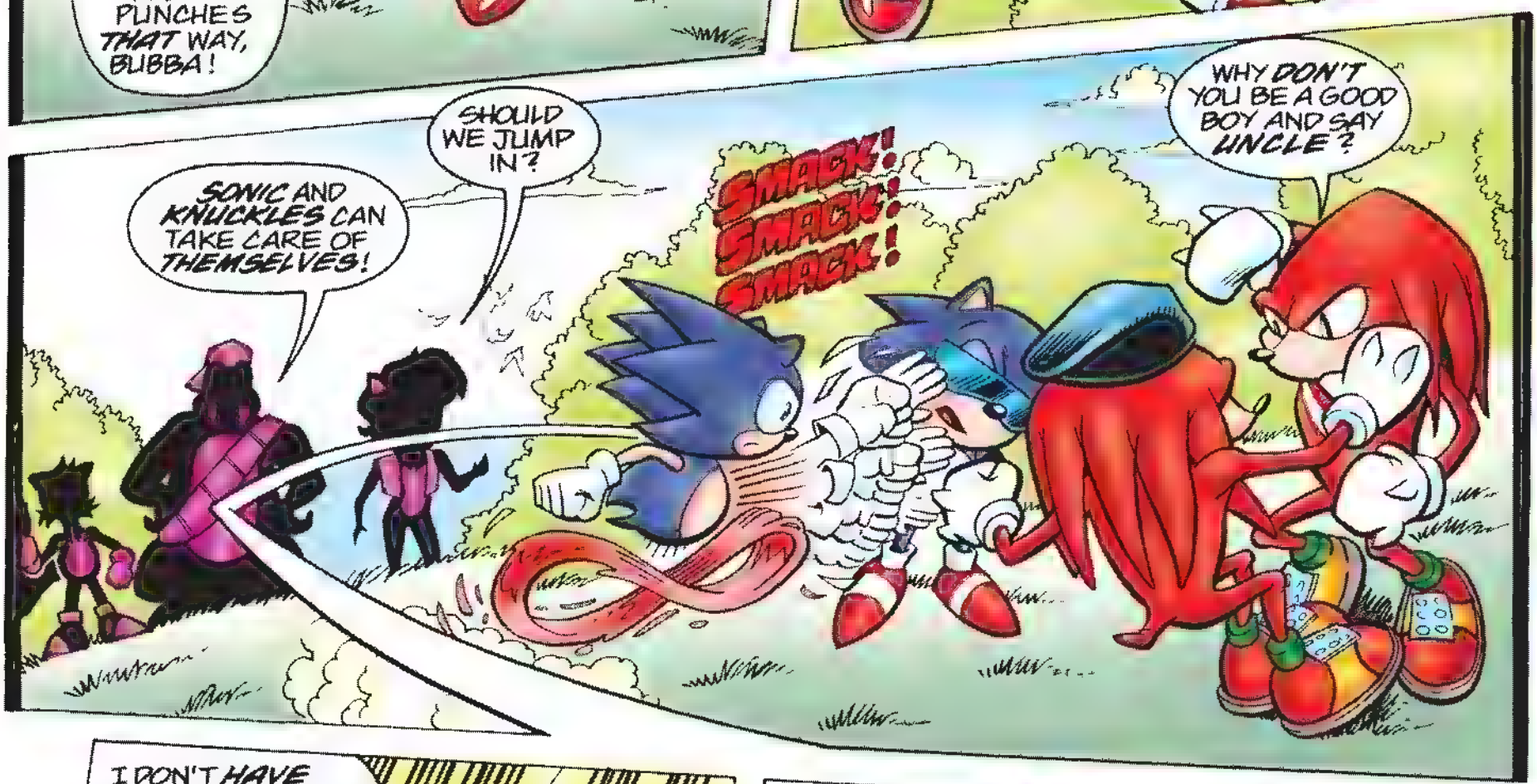

THAT'S NOT NECESSARY! NOT WHEN I CAN HAVE MY REMOTE SCANNER FLY OVER THE AREA--
--AND TRANSMIT BACK TO US WHATEVER IT SEES!

DON'T YOU FIND IT IRONIC THAT WE DEPEND SO MUCH ON TECHNOLOGY IN OUR FIGHT AGAINST A TECHNOLOGICAL ENEMY?
FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRE, I ALWAYS SAY!
READY?
THE SPEEDSTER'S MINE!

LET'S TAKE 'EM!
LOOKS LIKE THEY FOUND US!
WHA-?

SONIC! DUCK!
WAY AHEAD OF YOU, LI'L BUDDY!
WHOOOOOSH!
YOU SHOULDN'T TELE-GRAPH YOUR PUNCHES THAT WAY, BUBBA!

GIVE IT UP, M'LAD! WHILE YOU STILL CAN!
ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?

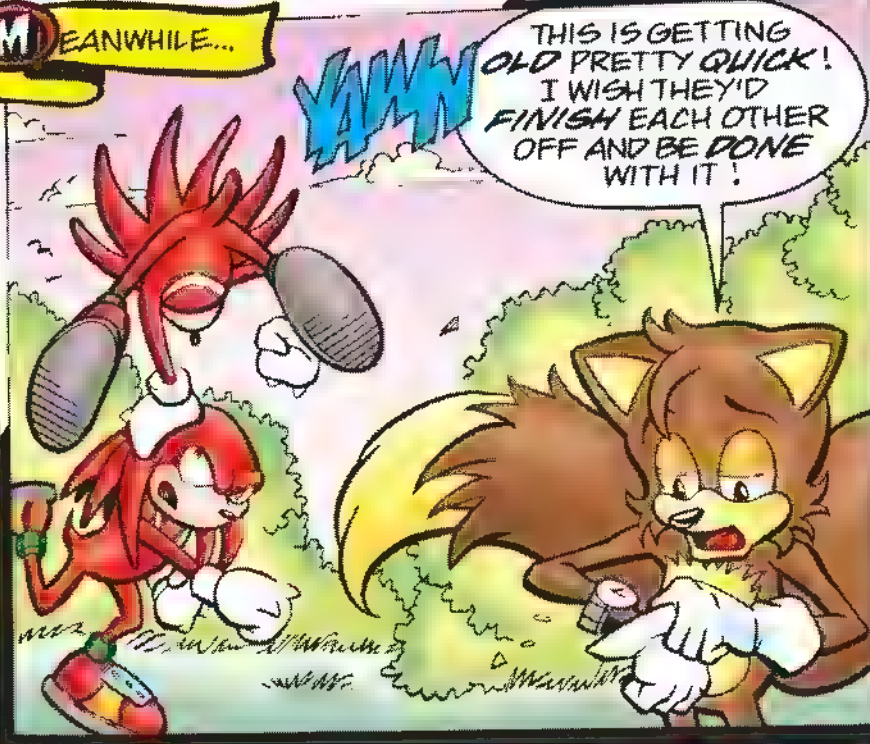

SONIC AND KNUCKLES CAN TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES!
SHOULD WE JUMP IN?
SMACK! SMACK! SMACK!
WHY DON'T YOU BE A GOOD BOY AND SAY UNCLE?

I DON'T HAVE AN UNCLE--BUT I DO HAVE THIS KINDLY OL' AUNT!
WHUMP!

STAND STILL, YOU SICKENING GOODY-TWO-SNEAKERS!
WHY? MY MAMA DIDN'T RAISE NO FOOL!

THAT'S YOUR OPINION!
AH, MISSED AGAIN!
LET'S SEE HOW YOU DO WHEN I GO ULTRA-SONIC!
HEEEY!
FRIZOOOOOM!

TWO CAN PLAY THIS GAME, PUNK!


MEANWHILE...
YAWN
THIS IS GETTING OLD PRETTY QUICK! I WISH THEY'D FINISH EACH OTHER OFF AND BE DONE WITH IT!

REALLY? I'M RATHER ENJOYING THE DISPLAY OF FIGHTING STYLES BEFORE US!

Y'KNOW, LADDIE, I'LL REALLY HATE MYSELF IF I DO THIS--

--SO I WON'T!
WHAT TH--

WHOOOSH!

FOR THE LAST TIME, GET OFF MY CASE!
NOW, IF YOU'D CARE TO EXPLAIN WHAT'S GOING ON, I'LL CHILL!
YEAH--
WHAT'S THE DEAL HERE?
WE'RE DUKIN', THEN YOU GIVE UP!!

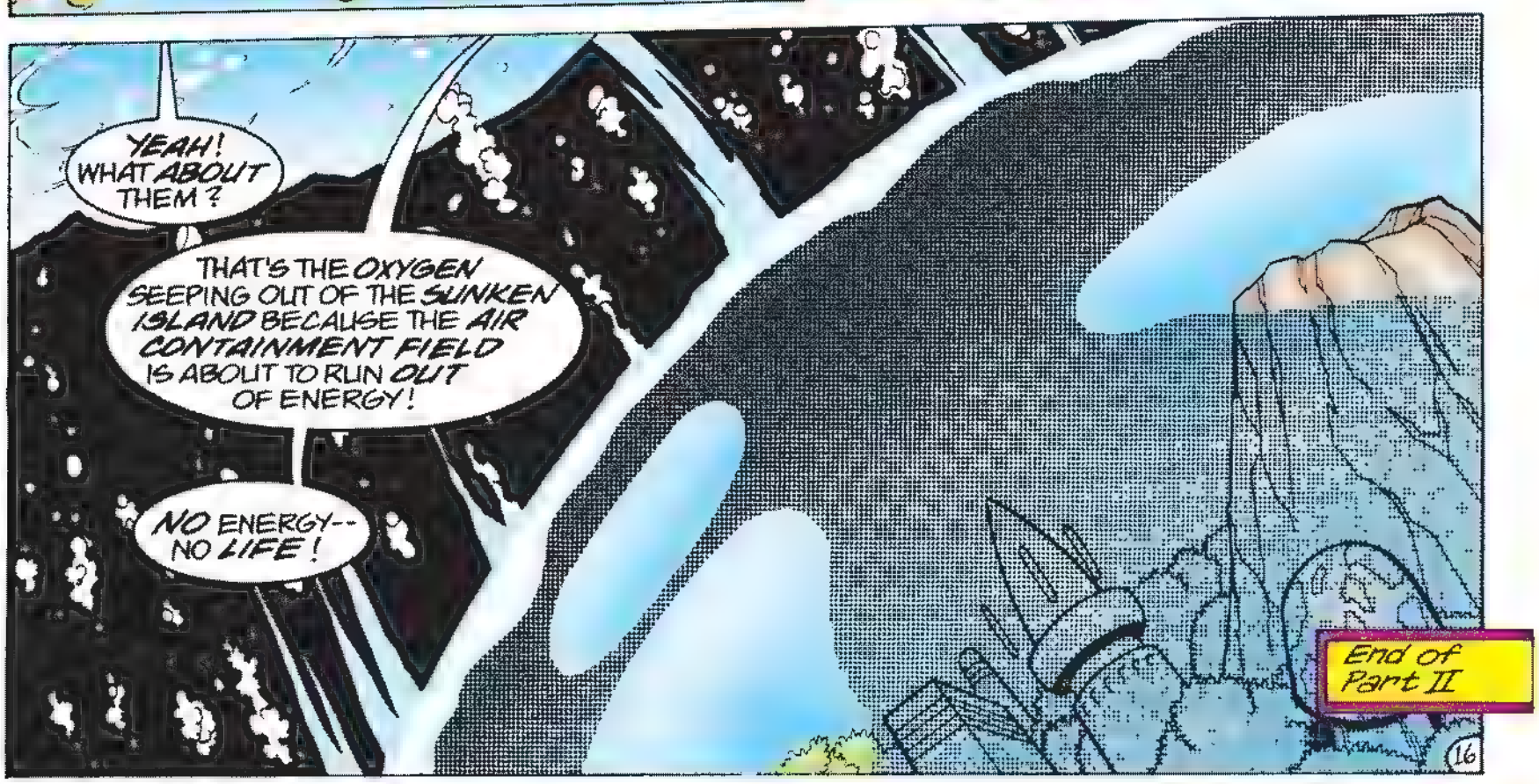
I SHOULD NEVER HAVE RESORTED TO VIOLENCE IN THE FIRST PLACE-- NO MATTER WHAT THE REASON!
AND THAT IS--?
SOMEONE IS DRAINING THE ENERGY FROM THE CHAOS EMERALDS THAT SUSTAINS MY ISLAND! IF WE CAN'T RESTORE THE ENERGY SOON ALL WILL PERISH!
AND THAT'S NOT WORTH FIGHTING FOR?

YOU WIMP!
YOU'RE AN EMBARRASSMENT TO ECHIDNAS EVERYWHERE!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!

I DON'T ?!!
AREN'T YOU THE GUARDIAN OF THE FLOATING ISLAND HERE ?!
AREN'T YOU RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WELL-BEING OF ITS INHABITANTS?

YOU'RE RIGHT!
EXCEPT FOR ONE THING--

--IT'S NOT A FLOATING ISLAND!
SEE THOSE BUBBLES OUT THERE ?


YEAH! WHAT ABOUT THEM ?
THAT'S THE OXYGEN SEEPING OUT OF THE SUNKEN ISLAND BECAUSE THE AIR CONTAINMENT FIELD IS ABOUT TO RUN OUT OF ENERGY!
NO ENERGY-- NO LIFE!
End of Part II

ATLANTINOPOLIS IS STRAIGHT AHEAD,

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG™

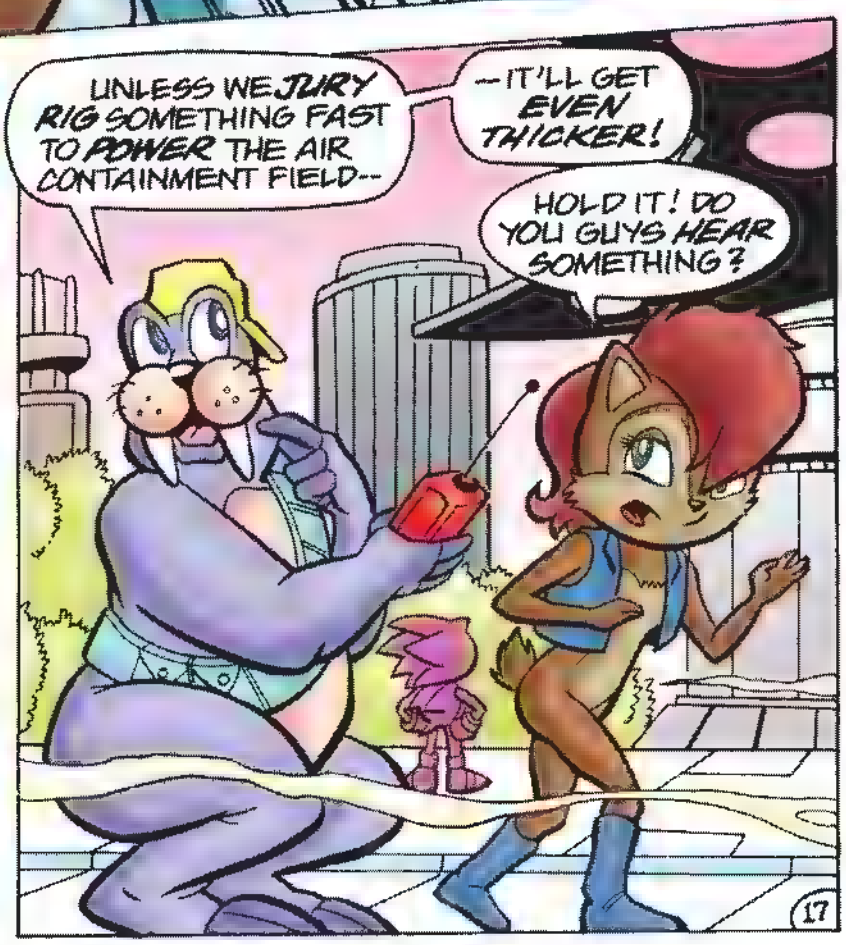
WE SHOULD BE PULLING INTO THE STATION IN *LESS* THAN 30 SECONDS!

BLACK AND BLUE AND RED ALL OVER

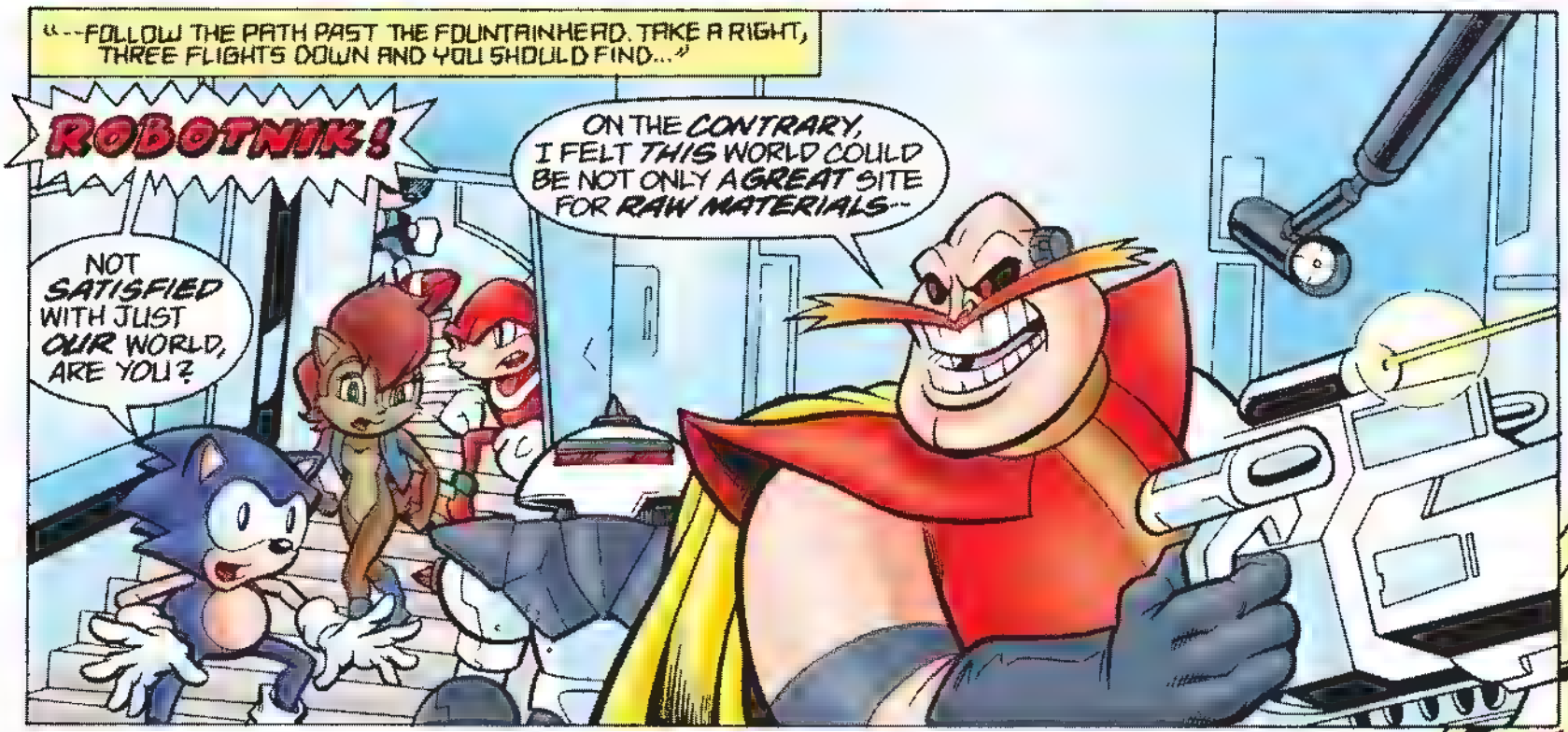
PART III

WAY-COOL!

THAT'S PUTTING IT *MILDLY*, SONIC!



SOUNDS LIKE DRILLING OR BLASTING!
ANY IDEA WHERE FROM?
IT'S A BIG COMPLEX. COULD BE ANY NUMBER OF PLACES!
WHAT ABOUT IT, NICOLE? CAN YOU HELP?
SCANNING.
HEAD NORTH BY NORTH-WEST TO THE LOWER LEVELS--


"--FOLLOW THE PATH PAST THE FOUNTAINHEAD. TAKE A RIGHT, THREE FLIGHTS DOWN AND YOU SHOULD FIND..."
ROBOTNIK!
NOT SATISFIED WITH JUST OUR WORLD, ARE YOU?
ON THE CONTRARY, I FELT THIS WORLD COULD BE NOT ONLY A GREAT SITE FOR RAW MATERIALS--

--BUT ALSO A BETA-SITE TO TEST MY LATEST DEVICES BEFORE I USED THEM ON YOU!
POWERED BY THE CHAOS EMERALDS I APPROPRIATED HERE--
--THIS PACKS MORE PUNCH THAN ANYTHING YOU'VE ENCOUNTERED BEFORE--
BEHOLD!
KRZZSHT!

I COULDN'T SPLIT THROUGH DIMENSIONS OR ZONES WITHOUT ATTRACTING YOUR ATTENTION--

--BUT HERE I CAN CREATE ALL SORTS OF INTERDIMENSIONAL DOORWAYS WITHOUT AROUSING THE CITIZENRY!

AND YOU KNOW WHY?

THERE ISN'T ANY WAR, SO THEY CHALK UP WHATEVER DISTURBANCE I MAKE TO BEING A NATURAL OCCURRENCE!

THAT'S SO TWISTED OF YOU TO EXPLOIT OUR WORLD LIKE THAT!

WISH I THOUGHT OF IT FIRST!

YES, I THOUGHT SO, TOO!

YOU HAVE ONE SERIOUS DRAWBACK!

YOU'RE STILL A HEDGEHOG!

WHAT'S THAT?

SWAT-BOTS!

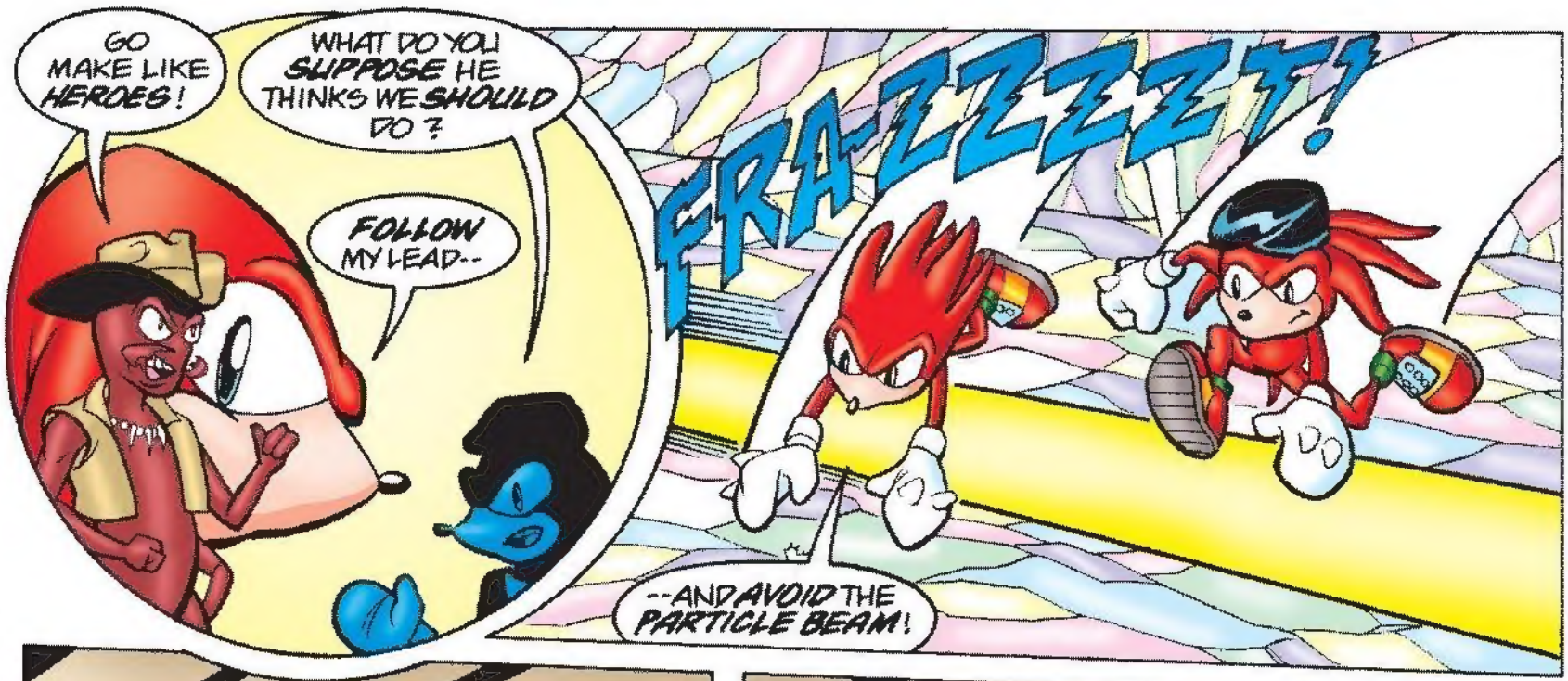
TAKE THEM TO WHERE THEY CAN COMMLINE WITH THE FISH--

--UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL!

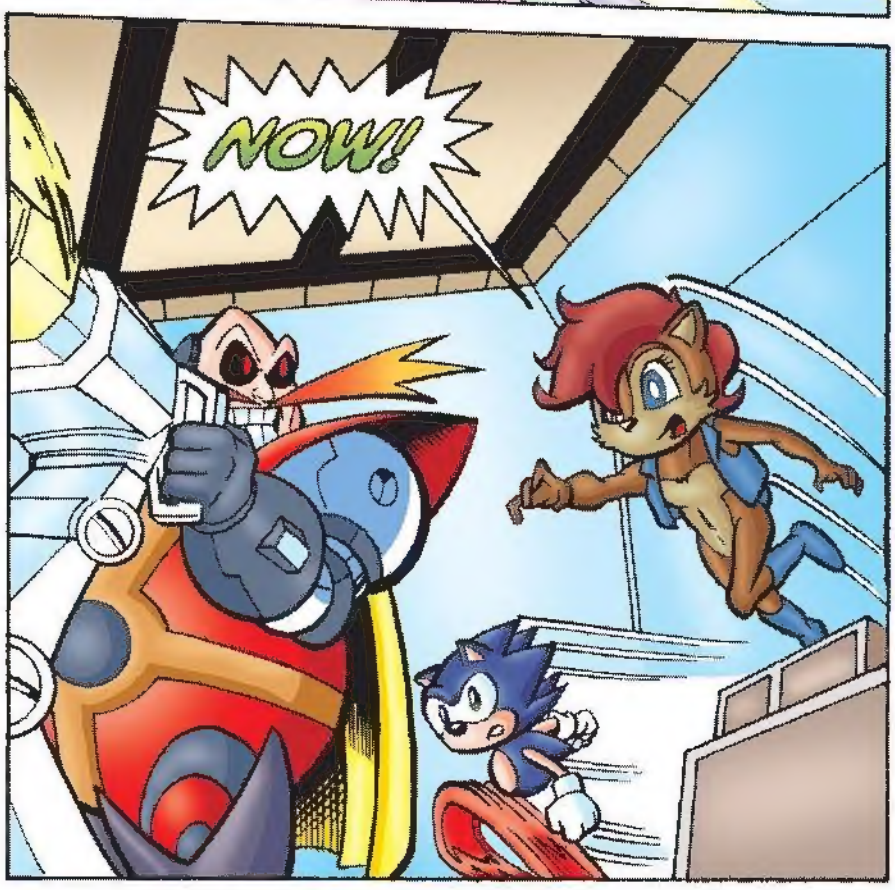
HAHAHAHA

HAHAHAHAHA
"WOMEN AND CHILDREN FIRST!"
I'LL GET 'IM FOR THAT!
HOPE I HAVE ENOUGH AIR TO MAKE IT THROUGH!
SEEMS RATHER MEAN-LOOKING AROUND HERE!
HERE! HAVE SOME FISTFULS OF SONIC BRASS!
ROCK'EM SOCK'EM!
BOING!
WAITAMINUTE!!! I'M BEING RATTED OUT HERE! THIS WASN'T PART OF THE PLAN!
YOUR TURN!
THIS'LL TEACH YA NOT TO MESS WITH ME!
QUICKLY, ROTOR, YOU'RE THE BEST SWIMMER!
GET OUT THERE AND SAVE TAILS!
IN THE MEANTIME--
HOW ABOUT CLUEING US IN ABOUT THIS "PLAN"?

"AND YOU BETTER HAVE SOMETHING BETTER THAN 'NO COMMENT'!"
THE GLOVES ARE OFF, RO-BUTT-NIK!
WE KNOW THE WHOLE SCHEME!
EVIL SONIC WAS WORKING IN CAHOOTS WITH YOU FOR A PIECE OF THE ACTION!
LIKE SO MANY OTHER SMALL-TIME THUGS, HE DIDN'T REALLY KNOW WHAT HE WAS DEALING WITH, DID HE?
NEITHER DO YOU, HEDGEHOG!
EACH TIME WE BATTLE, I GROW MEANER--
--AND NASTIER--
--AS THIS SHOULD PROVE!
BRZZZZZZT!
I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU WISH YOU STAYED ROBOTICIZED WHEN I'M THROUGH WITH YOU!*
*RECOUNTING EVENTS IN SONIC #39.-- EDITOR.
HE'S OPENED A GATEWAY TO OUR CHAOS CHAMBER, KNUCKLES!
ARCHIMEDES!!
I WISH YOU WOULDN'T DO THAT!
WELL, WHAT ARE THE TWO OF YOU WAITING FOR?
21


GO MAKE LIKE HEROES!
WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE HE THINKS WE SHOULD DO?
FOLLOW MY LEAD--
FRAZZZT!
--AND AVOID THE PARTICLE BEAM!

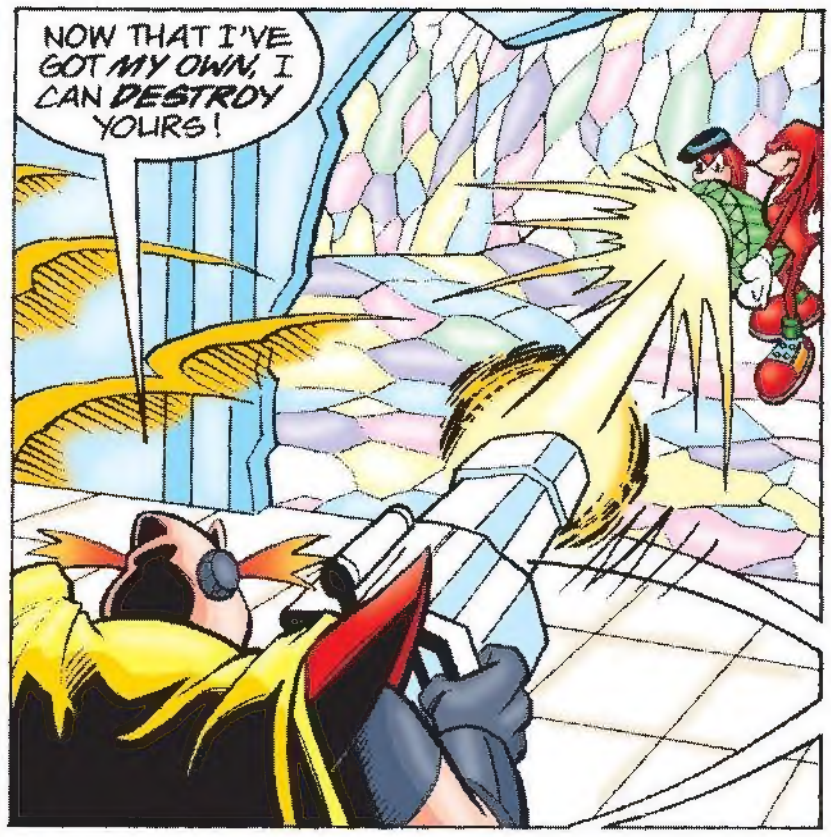
YOU GO RIGHT, SONIC, WHILE I GO LEFT!
WE NEED TO DIVERT ATTENTION AWAY FROM KNUCKLES!
ON MY MARK--


NOW!

LOOKS LIKE THEY WENT FROM THE FRYING PAN INTO THE FIRE!
QUICKLY, KNUX, HELP ME REPOSITION THE CHAOS EMERALD!
FRZZZT!

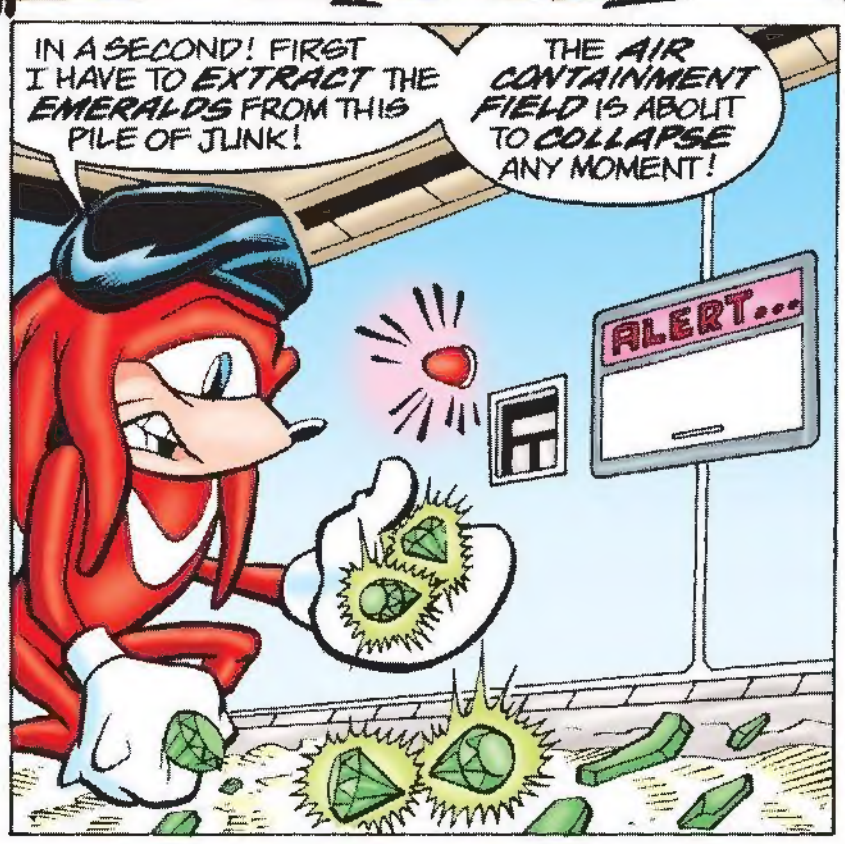
DID I EVER TELL YOU WHAT MY FAVORITE DISH IS?
ROASTED HEDGEHOG! IT'S ABSOLUTELY OUT OF THIS WORLD!
HOW WOULD YOU KNOW?
ZAPPPP!

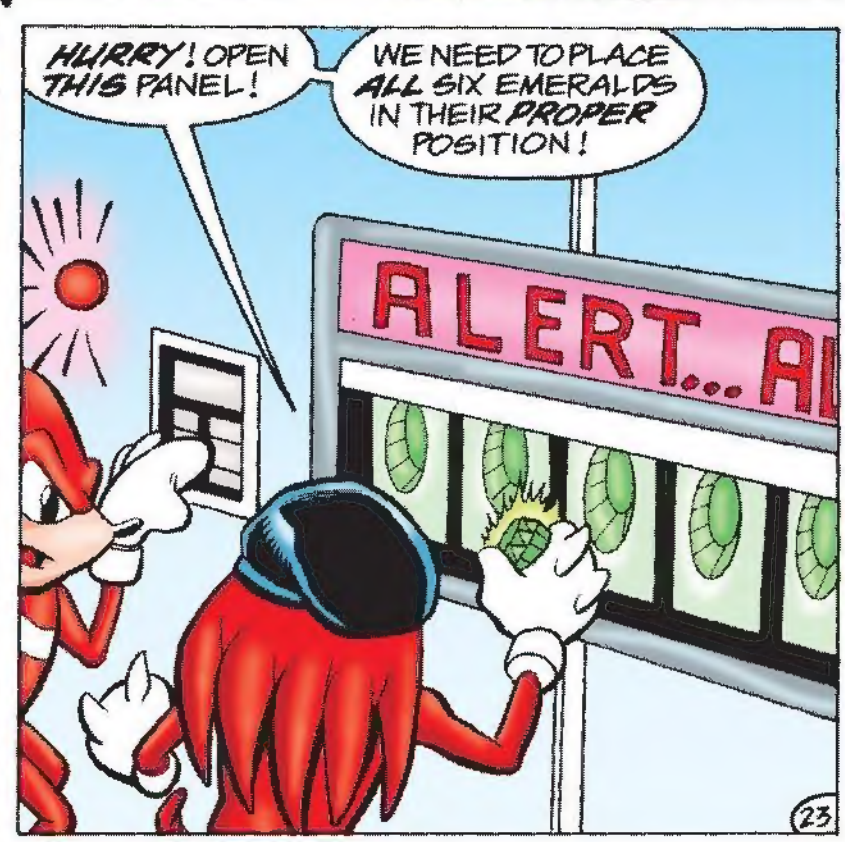
I'VE HAD IT BEFORE! YUM YUM!
HEY, DOC!!!
EH--?
I FORGOT! THE EMERALD!

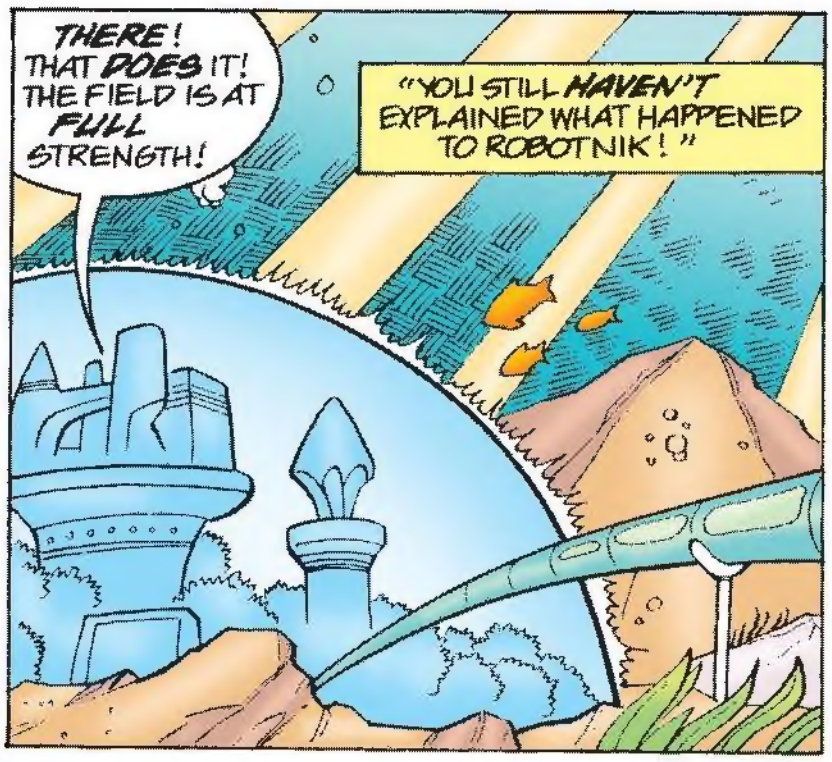

NOW THAT I'VE GOT MY OWN, I CAN DESTROY YOURS!

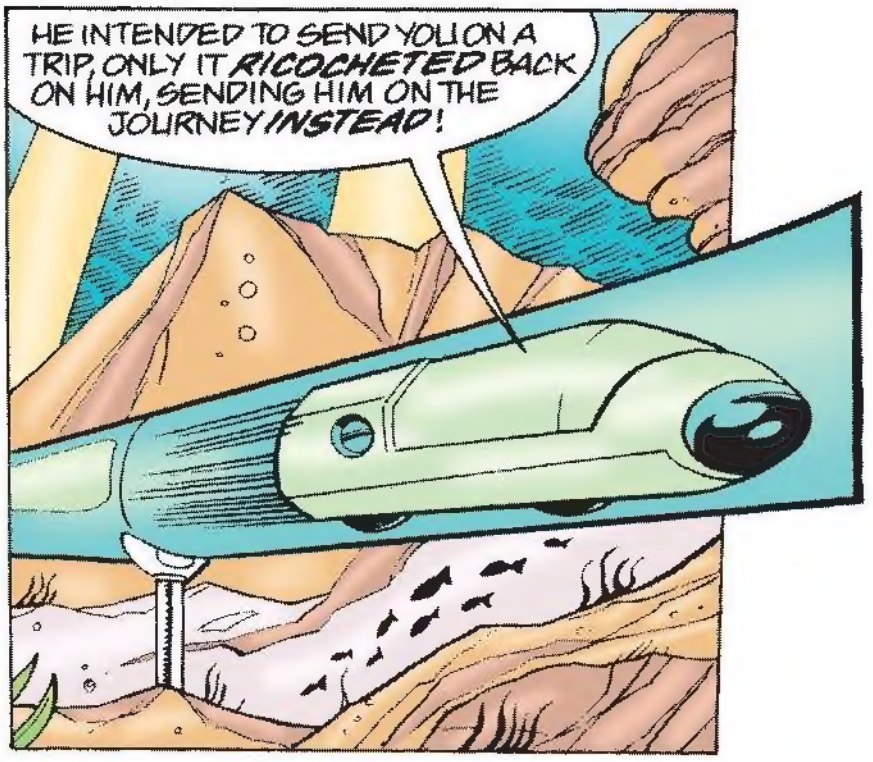
KRKRAKSHH!

ROBOTNIK'S VANISHED!
IS HE--?
NAH! HE'S JUST A LITTLE MISPLACED!
SO WHAT HAPPENED?


IN A SECOND! FIRST I HAVE TO EXTRACT THE EMERALDS FROM THIS PILE OF JUNK!
THE AIR CONTAINMENT FIELD IS ABOUT TO COLLAPSE ANY MOMENT!
ALERT...

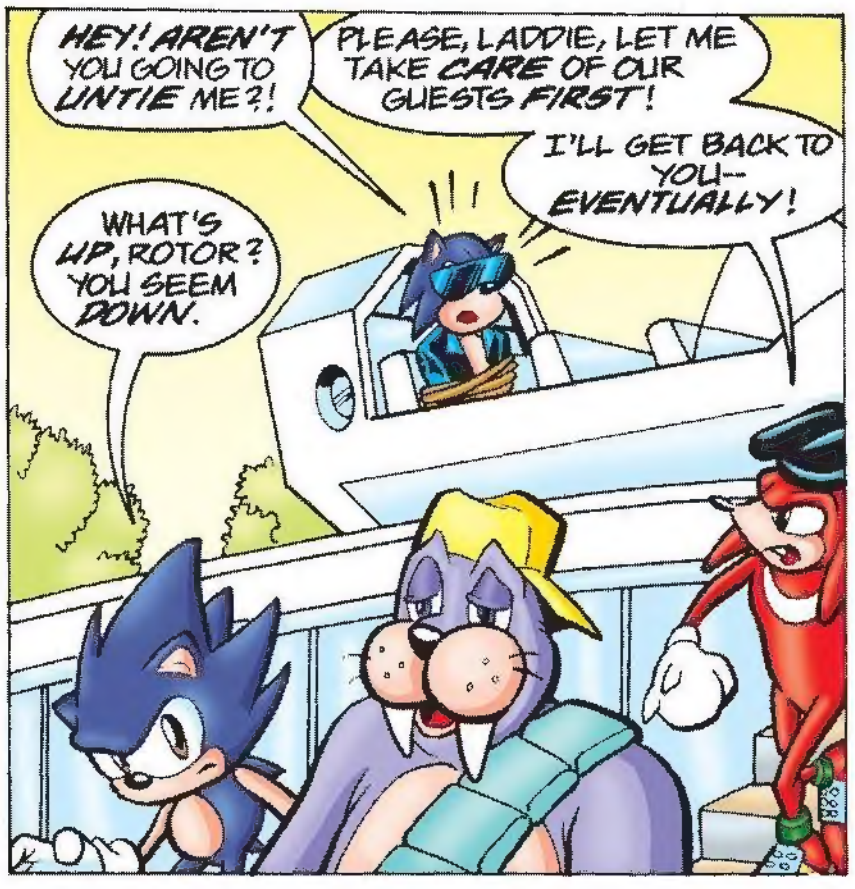

HURRY! OPEN THIS PANEL!
WE NEED TO PLACE ALL SIX EMERALDS IN THEIR PROPER POSITION!
ALERT...


THERE! THAT DOES IT! THE FIELD IS AT FULL STRENGTH!
"YOU STILL HAVEN'T EXPLAINED WHAT HAPPENED TO ROBOTNIK!"


HE INTENDED TO SEND YOU ON A TRIP, ONLY IT RICOCHETED BACK ON HIM, SENDING HIM ON THE JOURNEY INSTEAD!

ANY GUESSES WHERE HE IS?
BACK WHERE HE CAME FROM, MOST LIKELY!
HE WAS GOING TO DESTROY YOUR KNUCKLES' CHAOS EMERALD SO IT COULDN'T BE USED AGAINST HIM!

ABOUT TIME YOU SHOWED UP!
TAILS! ROTOR! THANK GOODNESS YOU BOYS MADE IT!


HEY! AREN'T YOU GOING TO UNTIE ME?!
PLEASE, LADDIE, LET ME TAKE CARE OF OUR GUESTS FIRST!
I'LL GET BACK TO YOU-- EVENTUALLY!
WHAT'S UP, ROTOR? YOU SEEM DOWN.

IT'S MY REMOTE SCANNER!
I ANTICIPATED US USING IT EVERYWHERE EXCEPT WHERE WE NEEDED IT!
GUESS IT'S BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD FOR YOU!
Grumble Grumble
THE END